

## **ILLINOIS FALL COLOR REPORT 9/21/16**



### **Northwest**

Carroll County: Fall is here in northwest Illinois. The bottomland trees are showing signs of color change, the silver maple turning yellow and red and cottonwood turning yellow. Walnut is shedding its leaves fast as the little yellow leaflets "rain" across the road. Sumac and dogwood are turning reds and purples in the roadside. Yellow goldenrod is in full bloom in the roadside, and the farmers are in the fields harvesting corn.

Illinois Quad Cities Area – Bureau, Henry, Knox, Mercer, Rock Island and Stark Counties: Fall is not here yet, with daytime temperatures around 90.

Main tree change is with black walnut - many getting yellow leaves, some already dropping leaves. Some sumac along roadsides is showing some scarlet; also along roadsides is some spotty white color from Queen Anne's Lace and asters; some yellow from goldenrod and wild sunflowers, some "cornflower" from chicory still remains. Crop fields are at various stages of maturing - some already harvested; some bean fields still have a lot of light green and yellow; and, some are all brown. Some corn is still holding on to light green leaves, but most is yellow and tan.

## **Northeast**

Grundy County: Woods are showing just a hint of color in northeast Illinois (I-80 corridor). Silver maple, cottonwoods, elm and hackberry in the woods are slightly yellow, but are dropping leaves still green. Some sumac and ivy are turning a bit red on bottoms. Urban areas see Armstrong and Autumn Blaze maple showing hints of red in the upper crowns.

McHenry County: Everything is pretty quiet so far for fall color. Black walnuts have started to drop their leaves here and there. A few isolated maples are starting to show some color prematurely.

## **West Central**

McDonough County: Leaf watchers are seeing a very slight change and a small amount of color. The Virginia creeper is showing some nice red and oranges when the vine is up in the top of a tree. Green ash is a bit yellow on some branches, and the white ash trees have a slight tinge of purple. Walnut is starting to show a bit of yellow, and the staghorn sumacs are throwing a bit of red around.

Pike, Adams, Scott, Calhoun, Brown, Jersey, Greene, and Macoupin counties: All tree/brush species remain predominantly green and maintaining their summer colors as summer closes and fall begins.

## **Eats Central**

Summer heat hanging on, and no obvious fall colors yet.

## **South**

Wayne County: Fall colors are starting off slowly. The black walnut have been turning (and dropping) so we have been seeing yellow wherever walnut trees are found. Catalpa is turning yellow gradually. Shining sumac is turning red, and some of the plants are also dropping their leaves. Staghorn sumac seed clusters are nearly ripe and are looking nice with their dark red against a green background. A few ash trees are just beginning to show their purple and yellow colors, though most of them are still solid green. Roadside goldenrod, Spanish needle, and Jerusalem artichoke are the show right now, but the colors will improve over the next month.

Randolph County: Little to report so far. Might be some stressed out trees that are going through some color changes, but most everything is still green as summer weather continues.